

**CHAPTER 1**

Malachi 1: [1] The burden of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi. [2] I have loved you, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, Wherein hast thou loved us? Was not Esau Jacob's brother? saith the LORD: yet I loved Jacob, [3] And I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness. [4] Whereas Edom saith, We are impoverished, but we will return and build the desolate places; thus saith the LORD of hosts, They shall build, but I will throw down; and they shall call them, The border of wickedness, and, The people against whom the LORD hath indignation for ever. [5] And your eyes shall see, and ye shall say, The LORD will be magnified from the border of Israel.

**1) God's Loving Confirmation      Vs 1-5**

Malachi was a prophet who prophesied after the Temple was rebuilt in Jerusalem.  
Malachi probably prophesied during the days of Nehemiah and the walls being rebuilt around Jerusalem.

Malachi is the last book of the Old Testament and the last prophet before John the Baptist.  
Malachi ministered and rebuked the same sins Nehemiah rebuked.

- A. The Defilement of the Priesthood (Mal 1:6 & Neh 13:29)
- B. The Corruption of Mixed Marriages (Mal 2:14,15 & Neh 13:23-25)
- C. The Neglect of the Tithe (Mal 3:8-12 & Neh 13:10,11)

Apostle Paul, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, warned young Timothy and all preachers to preach.

**2 Tim 4:2**

***[2] Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.***

To reprove is to tell a fault or point out an error. It is censorship.  
To rebuke is to show an error with intent to correct. It is for correction.  
To exhort is to comfort and encourage. It is for comfort.

As the Book of Malachi begins we must know that Malachi means "my messenger".  
Malachi was sent with a burden to declare God's Message and Word to the people of God.  
Anytime God is willing to send His messenger He does it in love to help His people.

Remember Nehemiah had returned to Shushan the palace, and when he returned the people were in sin.  
Malachi stood to reprove, rebuke and exhort the people.  
As the message begins, GOD states ***"I have loved you, saith the LORD."***

In the midst of the sins of the people, GOD loves them. He loves us too.

**Romans 5:8**

***[8] But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.***

GOD gives the assurance of His love for the people before He challenges the disobedience of the people.  
But the people question His love; ***"wherein hast thou loved us?"*** They are doubting.  
GOD if you love us, why are things so bad. Why is our economy poor and the politics corrupt?

Malachi reveals at least 7 questions the people ask GOD. This is the first.

GOD gives His answer with a question.

***“Was not Esau Jacobs brother? Saith the LORD yet I loved Jacob.”***

GOD says that HE hated Esau, but loved Jacob.

GOD is pointing out HIS love for the people in HIS choice of the people.

In love, GOD chose Israel and in love, HE chose us.

### **John 15:16**

***[16] Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.***

According to Genesis 25:29-34, Esau despised his birthright and sold it for a bowl of pottage.

### **Gen 25:29-34**

***[29] And Jacob sod pottage: and Esau came from the field, and he was faint:***

***[30] And Esau said to Jacob, Feed me, I pray thee, with that same red pottage; for I am faint: therefore was his name called Edom.***

***[31] And Jacob said, Sell me this day thy birthright.***

***[32] And Esau said, Behold, I am at the point to die: and what profit shall this birthright do to me?***

***[33] And Jacob said, Swear to me this day; and he sware unto him: and he sold his birthright unto Jacob.***

***[34] Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentiles; and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way: thus Esau despised his birthright.***

Esau was hated because he despised his birthright.

GOD already knew Esau would do this.

### **Gen 25:23**

***[23] And the LORD said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.***

GOD chose Jacob before his birth. GOD chose us before we were born again (Rom 5:8).

GOD said if we would honor HIM then HE will honor us BUT if despise HIM, then we shall be lightly esteemed.

### **1 Sam 2:30**

***[30] for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.***

The Edomites were descendants of Esau and they hated the descendants of Jacob, the Jews.

The Edomites were judged for their sin.

Yet, Jacob, the brother of Esau, was loved of GOD, was chosen and blessed.

Esau was hated and rejected because Esau rejected the LORD.

Spurgeon was asked “Why should GOD say HE hated Esau?”

Spurgeon replied, that is not my difficulty madam. My trouble is to understand how GOD could love Jacob.

The name Jacob means cheater, supplanter. Jacob was con artist. He was a sinner, but repented.

GOD did not arbitrarily chose, HE knew the results before Jacob ever turned to the LORD.

In fact GOD's choice was extended to the descendants of both Esau and Jacob.

The Edomites sinned and so did the Jews sin. Both the Edomites and Jews were punished.  
But the Jews repented and were forgiven and restored.  
The Edomites would not repent and were left in the misery of sin.  
Why? Because the Edomites rejected GOD and HE rejected them.

**Malachi 1:[6] A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the LORD of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name? [7] Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the LORD is contemptible. [8] And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts.**

## **2) GOD's Loving Condemnation Vs 6-8**

Remember GOD through preaching wants to censor and correct.

### **Hebrews 12:6**

***[6] For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.***

GOD states that a child honors his father and a servant honors his master, but GOD is not honored by His people. The evidence of the neglect of people points to the fact that they despise the name of GOD.

Thus the Jews ask a second question, ***“Wherein have we despised thy name?”***

GOD wants reverence and honor in sacrifice, offerings and worship.  
They call GOD, “Father”, but do not honor Him as such.  
GOD says they are offering polluted or defiled bread on HIS altar.

As we, the men of GOD preach the Word, we are offering milk, meat and manna for the soul.  
Jesus said the words I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.  
Yet the men of GOD will not preach the whole counsel of GOD.  
They are told to “preach the Word”, but speak smooth words of mans wisdom instead.  
They are told to “feed the flock of God”.  
Don't be offering cold bread but bread warmed with prayer and passion.  
Don't be offering stale but stable bread in our preaching.

Paul warned us about this even in our day.

### **2 Tim 3:5**

***[5] Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.***

Thus the Jews ask a third question ***“Wherein have we polluted thee?”***  
GOD says that in your heart you hate the things of GOD.

**Matthew 15: 8**

*[8] This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.*

GOD says that the priests are offering animal sacrifices that are blind, lame and sick.  
They were supposed to offer the best, but rather gave GOD the leftovers.

**Deut 15:21**

*[21] And if there be any blemish therein, as if it be lame, or blind, or have any ill blemish, thou shalt not sacrifice it unto the LORD thy God.*

**Lev 22:20-23**

*[20] But whatsoever hath a blemish, that shall ye not offer: for it shall not be acceptable for you.*

*[21] And whosoever offereth a sacrifice of peace offerings unto the LORD to accomplish his vow, or a freewill offering in beeves or sheep, it shall be perfect to be accepted; there shall be no blemish therein.*

*[22] Blind, or broken, or maimed, or having a wen, or scurvy, or scabbed, ye shall not offer these unto the LORD, nor make an offering by fire of them upon the altar unto the LORD.*

*[23] Either a bullock or a lamb that hath any thing superfluous or lacking in his parts, that mayest thou offer for a freewill offering; but for a vow it shall not be accepted.*

We are to make an offering to the LORD.

**Romans 12:1**

*[1] I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

GOD says that HE will not accept their offering of leftovers.

GOD says give your defiled offerings to your governor.

The people were trying to give GOD what the government would not accept.

Friend serving GOD should cost us something.

**2 Sam 24:24**

*[24] And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.*

**Malachi 1:[9] And now, I pray you, beseech God that he will be gracious unto us: this hath been by your means: will he regard your persons? saith the LORD of hosts. [10] Who is there even among you that would shut the doors for nought? neither do ye kindle fire on mine altar for nought. I have no pleasure in you, saith the LORD of hosts, neither will I accept an offering at your hand. [11] For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name shall be great among the heathen, saith the LORD of hosts. [12] But ye have profaned it, in that ye say, The table of the LORD is polluted; and the fruit thereof, even his meat, is contemptible. [13] Ye said also, Behold, what a weariness is it! and ye have snuffed at it, saith the LORD of hosts; and ye brought that which was torn, and the lame, and the sick; thus ye brought an offering: should I accept this of your hand? saith the LORD. [14] But cursed be the deceiver, which hath in his flock a male, and voweth, and sacrificeth unto the LORD a corrupt thing: for I am a great King, saith the LORD of hosts, and my name is dreadful among the heathen.**

### 3) GOD's Loving Consideration

### Vs 9-14

Malachi asks "How can God be gracious to us, if we act in disobedience?"

"Do you think GOD will regard who are?"

Friend GOD is not a respecter of persons. HE will treat all the same.

In verse 10, GOD says it is better to shut the doors than practice worthless worship.

GOD says "***I have no pleasure in you.***"

GOD will not go without worship.

If the priests & the Jews will not worship Him in Spirit and in truth GOD will turn to the Gentiles.

GOD will accept worship from the heathen Gentiles.

In verse 12, the people say that they hate observing the worship of GOD, it is contemptible to them

In verse 13, the people complain that serving the LORD is weariness.

GOD asks, "because you don't like it then should I accept second best? Should GOD accept leftovers?"

In verse 14, GOD says cursed be the deceiver.

The priest may accept it, but GOD will not!

You could offer pure things, the best things, but ye refuse.

You keep the best for yourself.

God says "***I am a great King***".... Friend He is King of Kings! He is to be honored and feared!

When we are insincere, we don't honor Him as a Great King!